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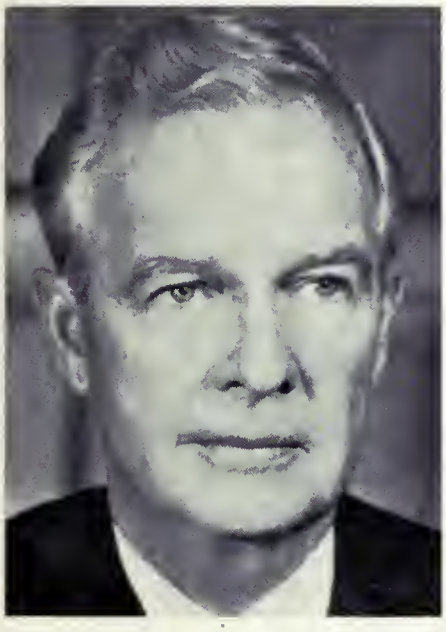
SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

LET OLDER AMERICANS BE OF SERVICE

Dedicated to the Educational, Economic and Social Betterment of Older Montanans

Volume I | March, 1970 | Number 1



GOV. ANDERSON WILL BE HOST AT AGING MEET

Helena — Gov. Forrest H. Anderson will host the Second

Butte Gets Low Cost Housing Units For Seniors

Butte—Construction started March 1 on a $750,000 housing project for pensioners and senior citizens.

In the early stages of this development the Montana Commission on Aging co-operated with the Most Reverend Raymond Hunthausen, Bishop of Helena, in making the initial proposal to the Housing and Urban Development Authority.

The seven building apartment complex, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, is being financed by the Federal Housing Authority.

CRAIGHEAD "... MORE HOUSING OBVIOUSLY"

Helena—Chairman Barclay Craighead pointed out the

Please turn to page six.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF—These are busy days in the Commission on Aging's headquarters, Penkay Eagles Manor, Helena. The staff, pictured right, is preparing for rapid expansion of projects for the aging during the coming fiscal year. Shown standing from the left, Jack Tucker, Administrative Officer, Frank Small, Publications Consultant, Vincent H. Weggenman, Field Representative, Lyle Downing, Executive Director, center, Lila Gray, left, Accounting Clerk and Minna Miller, Secretary.

Director's Report

by Lyle Downing

On May 15, 1970, the Montana Commission on Aging will complete its fourth year of administering Title III of the Older Americans Act. designed to improve the educational, social and economic status of the state's approximately 70,000 senior citizens.

We believe that we have made a great deal of progress in this field, and that we will be able to accomplish much more as the program continues.

Some aspects of the program are not all that could be desired. Due to the present appropriations hang-up in Congress, we have been operating since July 1, 1969, under a Congressional continuing resolution which made no provision for expansion. A letter issued February 3, 1970, from John B. Martin, Washington, D.C., National Commissioner on Aging, states that under President Nixon's budget for the fiscal year 1971, there will be no increase in the Federal allotment for projects. This means that if this situation does not change, we will be operating during the next fiscal year at our present level. There is one encouraging possibility—it is indicated by Washington that our operations will be expanded through the addition of new programs which may include the Foster Grandparents project and several other programs that are not now under the supervision of the state Commisison on Aging.

The Administration on Aging in Washington is putting strong emphasis on state-wide planning, coordination, evaluation and administration on area-wide projects. If we are given new programs to administer, we believe that the funds for their operation will be added to our allotment.

Older members of the Commission will remember that when we started out in 1966, we had a one-room office in the nursery of the old Executive Mansion. The staff consisted of the Director and one secretary. Today we have 800 square feet of office space which was constructed in the Penkay Eagles Manor to our specifications. More office space was required because, at the direction of the Administration on Aging, we have expanded our staff to six persons.

One of the jobs which we will undertake in the next fiscal year is joining with other interested state agencies in arranging Montana's participating in the White House Conference on Aging, which will be held in November of 1971 in Washington, D.C.

We were particularly pleased with the fine support the Commission gave us in staging the first annual Governor's Conference on Aging last October in Great Falls. More than 400 federal and state officials and Older Americans were in attendance. This year's conference will be held at the Florence Hotel in Missoula on September 17th and 18th. We are hopeful that senior citizens will be able to play a larger role in this conference.

We anticipate some drastic changes in our statutory set-up as the result of pending consolidation of state agencies. It seems certain that we will be part of a larger agency. The Governor's committee working on the consolidation program will inform us within the next few weeks concerning our possible new status.

The Director wishes to take this opportunity, in the first edition of the Senior Citizen News, to thank the members of the Commission for their assitance to the staff. We hope for many more years of congenial association.

Spread The Good News!!!

Pages four and five are devoted to a poster which you can send to a friend to get them started organizing their own Senior Citizens Center. Any store owner would be glad to hang it in his window.

PASS ON PROJECTS—One of the most important functions of the Commission on Aging is to approve community projects for senior citizens under Title III of the Older Americans Act. The four members of the Commission's Technical Review Committee who perform this chore are shown above. From the left, J. E. O'Connell, prominent business leader; Howard Ellsworth, Senior Citizen representative; attorney Thomas H. Mahan and banker Chase Patrick, chairman. All are Helena residents.

JOBS OPEN FOR SENIOR CITIZENS 1970 CENSUS

Washsington, D.C.—John B. Martin, U.S. Commissioner on Aging, advised that senior citizens seeking employment with the 1970 census should contact offices opening in Billings and Missoula. The census will start April 1.

In a letter to Lyle Downing, director of the Montana Commission on Aging, Martin said that the Census Bureau has no maximum age limit for enumerators.

The requirements for the 160,000 census takers are: citizenship, good physical condition, able to work six to eight hours, willing to work evenings and Saturdays, take an examination, and be able to attend a paid training session.

Retired Federal employees or retired military officers are not eligible.

Downing will make available information as it arrives at Commission on Aging headquarters, Penkay Eagles Manor, 715 Fee St. Helena, Montana.

1,200 Candles Brighten Neal Leary's Enrollment

Butte — Twelve hundred candles decorated the cake used to celebrate the enrollment of Neal Leary at the Senior Citizen Center as he became the 1,200 member.

Leary was given an honorary key to the center by hospitality chairman Joe Warren as he was welcomed by president Jim Sloan and 17 members of the council.

Emily Paul, record keeper at the center, added all the ages of the registered citizens and came up with the figure of 81,600 years of experience.

OVERALL OPERATIONS—Policy decisions of the Montana Commission on Aging are made by its Executive Committee shown above. From the left, John Coey, Jr., Public Assistance Director for the Montana Department of Public Welfare, Barclay Craighead, Commission Chairman, and John F. Sasek, Administrator, Public Employees Retirement System. Mr. Sasek is also Vice Chairman of the Aging Commission.

Brighten the

MONTANA SENIOR

Establish A Senior Citizen Center →

A Regular Non-Partisan Organization →

Parties
Dance
Cards Hot & Cold Weather →
Birthday

Foster Grandparents →

Arts & Crafts
Painting & Knitting →

Movies →

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How to do it information at Montana Commission on Aging.

Golden Years

ENTERS "...SUCCESS"

← *Meals on Wheels*

UR

← *Telephone Reassurance*

UNITY

HAVE

← *Low Income Housing*

SE

← *Moderate Income Housing*

ECTS

← *Mini Bus*

enkay Eagles Manor, 715 Fee Street, Helena, Montana 59601

MONTANA SENIOR CITIZEN CENTERS

Walter Zimmerman, Director
Recreation Department-City of Billings
Senior Citizens Multi-Purpose Center
13 North 29th Street
Billings, Montana 59101

James Todd, Director
Great Falls Senior Citizens Center
318 Central Avenue
Great Falls, Montana 59401

John F. Haugan, Director
Kathleen Walford Senior Citizens Center
424 Higgins Avenue
Missoula, Montana 59801

Michael Murray, Director
Helena Senior Centers
1421 Roberts Street—21 North Main Street
Helena, Montana 59601

Charles Rice, Acting Director
Butte Silver Bow Senior Activity Center
405 West Park Street
Butte, Montana 59034

Frank Bolton, Director
Flathead Senior Citizens Center
Main and First Streets
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Don Lopp, Deputy Director
Mineral County Senior Citizens Centers
Albertson Montana
Superior Montana
St. Regis Montana
508 Toole
Missoula Montana 59801

Mrs. Sallie M. Brutto Coordinator
The Senior Center of Hamilton
O'Hara House
109 South Fourth Street
Hamilton Montana 59840

Mrs. Daniel Lebsack President
Park County Senior Citizens Center
206 South Main
Livingston Montana 59047

Hugh Simanton Director
Malta Senior Citizens Center
206 South Second Avenue East
Malta Montana 59538

Walter S. Holtzman Director
Bozeman Senior Social Center Incorporated
Six West Main
Bozeman Montana 59715

Mrs. Eleanor Starina Director
Big Horn County Senior Citizens Association
518 Center Avenue
Hardin Montana 59034

Anderson Hosts

Annual Conference on Aging to be held in Missoula September 17-18 at the Florence Hotel.

Keynote speaker is expected to be Bernard Nash, Washington, D.C., newly-elected president of the American Association of Retired Persons. Mr. Nash is the former deputy commissioner of the U. S. Administration on Aging.

Nash, 47, a sociologist and gerontologist, was responsible for supervision of the Older Americans Act and its amendments, as well as helping develop the Congressional Act calling for the 1971 White House Conference on Aging. A competent and able administrator, Mr. Nash worked with the Minneapolis Community Council and was executive secretary of the Governor's Council on Aging in Minnesota. Nash was also director and chairman of the Department of Community Development at the University of Missouri.

Last October in Great Falls the initial Governor's Conference—the first of its kind in the Rocky Mountain area—400 attended—was keynoted by John B. Martin, executive assistant to President Nixon and national commissioner of the Administration on Aging.

This year older Americans will be given a larger role in the conference's activities.

Only about five per cent of the elderly live in institutions. The great majority are capable of living useful, productive, lives.

Craighead Housing

need for senior citizen housing in Missoula, Cascade, Lewistown and "obviously in Kalispell" to the staff of the Montana Commission on Aging.

The success and need for these facilities has been demonstrated in Great Falls and Helena. The Great Falls unit is full and has never missed a payment on its federal loan.

Helena's Penkay Eagles Manor has now reached 90 per cent in only seven months of operation. In the planning stages three years were allowed to reach full occupancy.

Lodges, churches and nonprofit citizens organizations can sponsor senior citizen housing and the Montana Commission of Aging will help them, Mr. Craighead said Montana's congressional delegation has shown interest and would give any of these groups assistance with their plans.

Craighead explained the two types of housing required. First is the small income units comparable to those now being constructed in Butte. (see story page 1) The other style of housing is for those of moderate means such as those constructed in Great Falls and Helena by the Eagles. Smaller sized facilities are needed in eight or ten other towns.

Butte Housing

The project is designed to provide low cost housing for persons living on pensions and is being financed on a self-liquidating basis.

The seven units will contain one and two bedroom apartments.

Projects Funded Under Title III of the Older Americans Act; Montana Commission on Aging*

Location	NAME OF PROJECT
Helena	Senior Citizens Assisting Extended Care Patients
Boulder	Senior Citizens Conducting Program for Mr. Aged
Helena	Montana Senior Citizens Survey Investigation Carroll College
Missoula	Preparing Elderly Persons as Teacher Aides in Montana
Billings	Older Americans Assisting Public Schools
Bozeman	Bozeman Senior Social Center
Bozeman	Nursing Home Seminar for Nurses and Administrators
Great Falls	Great Falls Senior Citizens Center
Livingston	Park County Senior Citizens Corporation
Hamilton	The Senior Citizens Association of Ravalli County, Inc.
Helena	Workshop for Nursing Home and Hospital Cooks
Missoula	Senior Citizens Multi-Purpose Center
Helena	Helena Senior Centers
Kalispell	Flathead Senior Citizens Center
Missoula	Mineral County Centers—Alberton, Superior, St. Regis
Malta	Malta Senior Citizens Center
Butte	Butte-Silver Bow Senior Activity Center
Hardin	The Senior Center of Hardin
Billings	Senior Citizens Multi-Purpose Center

Federal Total	$444,226.70
Local Total	306,827.78
Grand Total	751,054.48

*No State Funds are involved in any of these projects.

Rabbi Lectures to Missoula Center

Missoula—A special attraction at the Kathleen Walford Senior Citizens Center was a talk by Rabbi Samuel Horowitz of Billings, former visiting lecturer at the University of Montana.

Rabbi Horowitz spoke on "Problems of Israel" according to Rev. John Haugan, center director.

10,000 Elderly Need Phone Reassurance

The ten thousand older people in Montana who live alone are in special jeopardy from falls, strokes and sudden illnesses. For them, a telephone call, at an arranged hour once a day, may mean the difference between life and death, or between complete recuperation and permanent disablement.

Telephone reassurance is an organized volunteer program which calls elderly or incapacitated persons who live alone, or who are temporarily alone, to c h e c k their well being.

If a client does not answer at the appointed t i m e , and emergency life line goes into immediate action. As prearranged, a neighbor, nurse, or policeman makes house call. If a medical crisis is discovered, the older person's doctor is called and his relatives notified.

Every community has elderly persons l i v i n g alone; every community needs a telephone reassurance service!!!

Does your Senior Citizen's Center provide such a service?

LIVINGSTON CENTER LEADERS VISIT COMMISSION STAFF—Senior center leaders seeking low cost housing for Park County stopped at Penkay Eagles Manor, Helena, to request cooperation from the Montana Commission on Aging in securing federal assistance. Shown left to right: J. E. Vaught; Mrs. Daniel Lebsack, president; Harry Grant, chairman of the Livingston Planning Board; Vincent H. Weggenman, commission field representative; Frank Small, commission publications consultant; Emil Caruso, Livingston alderman; Ray Hedrick, representing the Park County Commisisoners a n d Orren Doty, manager of the Livingston Center.

Down-Under Group Therapy

Adelaide, Australia—A lead editorial in **Senior Citizen News,** official magazine of the South Australian Council on the Aging, says that group activities of senior centers should be called, "preventative geriatric medicine."

The editorial states:

"Today's trend is toward senior citizen centers, and this is emphasized in recent Commonwealth Government legislation. The Government will subsidize one-third of the cost of a center, the other two thirds to come from a State government and the public in equal shares. The commonwealth also will fund one-half of the Center's director's salary."

As time goes by the need for these centers will increase as our aging population grows —as it surely will."

---

8 Ball In Side Pocket

Superior—A new pool table has been installed in the Senior Citizens Center which is open from 1:00 to 4:00 p. m. daily.

SNOWMOBILE SENIORS DRAW COMPARISONS

Wolf Point—"I like horses better" said Myra Cusker, 94, after a snowmobile ride at the Faith Lutheran Home.

Cusker, a 50 year resident of McCone County, in the early days used to sell quarter horses to the government and wore his cowboy hat during snowmobile rides given by Charles Mueller and Vern Wiens.

Peter Dyck, 85, said that he likes anything that goes fast.

Rose St. Pierre, 77, said that it was a "wonderful experience.

John Berg, native of Norway, said that he had some faster rides on skies.

According to Rev. Thomas Boe, administrator for Faith Lutheran Home, "All the people here will be talking about this event for a long time."

Libby—New officers have been installed by the Libby Senior Citizens group to function during 1970. Grace Henderson was seated as president; Mary Blair as vice president; and Grace Brown, treasurer.

SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

LET OLDER AMERICANS BE OF SERVICE

Published monthly by the Montana Commisison on Aging, Penkay Eagles Manor, 715 Fee Street, Helena, Montana 59601 Dedicated to Montana's 70,000 older Americans

Forrest H. Anderson
Governor of Montana

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Administering Title III of the Older Americans Act

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